

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
the Church Room, St John The Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 16th November 2015**

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair) Jan Oakley-Hills Peter Turley	Colin Kibble Kenton Stewart
----------------	---	--------------------------------

In attendance: Cllr Paul Bartlett, KCC Community Warden, Henrietta Sawdon and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hansen, Murphy, Smithers and Whitehead.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 19 th October 2015 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.	
Public Session Henrietta Sawdon was welcomed to the meeting and introduced herself to the Council. Having lived in Mersham for 3 months she is very interested in village life and would like to join the Parish Council.	
Borough Councillors Cllr Bartlett reported that the local Needs Housing issue on Bower Road has now been resolved. There is to be a site submissions meeting in December. Petworth has been referred to the Environment Agency and will require consent from them. There is to be a J10A meeting in December. The planned consultation will begin in January 2016 and will be out to consultation for 9 weeks, ending mid-March. The consultees are KCC and ABC, there will be open sessions for comments at Orbital Park and the plans will also be available locally in shops etc. Chequertree – the Planning Inspector has taken more than 12 months to resolve this matter, potentially this could be due to the new rules regarding Gypsies and travellers. Cllr Jane Martin is endeavouring to obtain enthusiasm for completion of a traffic study to be undertaken in rural areas. Cllr Miss Martin may seek funding from the Parish Council.	
Report from Community Warden The Community Warden report that Halloween and Bonfire night had both passed reasonably quietly. There had been an attempted theft of tools from a van on Bower Road but this had, thankfully, been unsuccessful. There has been a theft of a Landrover from Smeeth. The water on Church Road continues to be a problem and the Community Warden wondered whether the imminent yellow lines will assist or aggravate the current situation at this point. It is hoped that this will assist with the issue and was noted that the School have put into practice a walking bus and staggered school day ending. The Community Warden has introduced himself to the New Head teacher at the School.	
To consider the Co-option of a New Councillor Cllr Fletcher proposed and Cllr Turley seconded that Henrietta should be formally co-opted on to the Council at the next meeting. All were in favour.	

Planning Matters:

A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:

Reference: 15/01394/AS

Address: Wellingtons, Flood Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HE

Proposal: Erection of a single storey timber framed double garage for plant and tractor use

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01397/AS

Address: Unit 2, Ashford Business Park, Barrey Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0SG

Proposal: Removal of condition 3 on planning permission 15/00590/AS

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01406/AS

Address: Ashford Market, Monument Way, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0HB

Proposal: Extension of hardstanding and erection of fence to provide secure vehicle storage area

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01418/AS

Address: Willesborough Garden Centre, Hythe Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0NE

Proposal: Retrospective application for change of use to car wash and installation of a canopy, wash screens, and cabins, storage, and fencing

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01436/AS

Address: Ashford Retail Park, Barrey Road, Sevington

Proposal: Construction of two internally illuminated totem signs

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01437/AS

Address: Ashford Retail Park, Barrey Road, Sevington

Proposal: Construction of two internally illuminated totem signs

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01485/AS

Address: Alphaston, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PE

Proposal: Erection of part two storey and part first floor rear extension

The Parish Council raises no objections but asks that the Planning Officer considers any issues raised by the neighbours.

Reference: 15/01455/AS

Address: Mersham Le Hatch, Hythe Road, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6NH

Proposal: Conversion of vacant East & West pavilions into self-contained residential annexe accommodation integral to the main house

No objections raised

Reference: 15/01493/AS

Address: Swevening, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NZ

<p>Proposal: Erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey side extension and front porch (re-submission of 15/01118/AS)</p> <p>The Parish Council recognises the adaptations made based on the feedback received, therefore, the Parish Council raises no objections but asks that the Planning Officer considers any issues raised by the neighbours.</p>																																				
<p>To receive an update on the Village Caretaker Scheme</p> <p>The Parish council are all supportive of the scheme and are prepared to contribute up to £4,000 on the understanding that the principles are laid out and agreed, Cllr Turley is to circulate a response he has formulated. There was a discussion on making up the shortfall. Grass-cutting in Brook and Mersham will be undertaken as a priority. The Parish Councillors agreed that Cllrs Murphy and Turley would represent Mersham with respect to governance of the scheme.</p>																																				
<p>To discuss the maintenance of the benches in the parish.</p> <p>Cllr Turley has undertaken an audit of all of the benches in Mersham/Sevington and it was agreed that 2 of the benches need replacing, one at Broadoak will be replaced with a recycled plastic bench – brown in colour, the Clerk is to order the bench and have it delivered to Cllr Turley. The bench at the Royal Oak will be considered for repair.</p>	TB/PT																																			
<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a. To note the Parish Council’s financial position.</p> <p>The Financial Statement was circulated. A budget against expenditure was also circulated</p> <p>The balance at bank is £35,025.97</p> <p>b. To authorise any payments including the Clerk’s Salary, Salaries for Messers King and Branson.</p> <p>The following payments were authorised:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="92 1205 1364 1635"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque</th> <th>Payee’s Name</th> <th>Reason for payment</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>501698</td> <td>ABN AMRO Commercial Finance</td> <td>Purchase and fitting of new roundabout</td> <td>£6,600.00</td> <td>Inc. £1,100 VAT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>501699</td> <td>Countrywide Grounds</td> <td>November Invoice for grass</td> <td>£280.00</td> <td>Inc. £46.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>501700</td> <td>Mr B Branson</td> <td>Litter picking November 2015</td> <td>£100.88</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>501701</td> <td>Mr I King</td> <td>Litter picking November 2015</td> <td>£83.85</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>501702</td> <td>Mrs T Block</td> <td>Salary for November 2015</td> <td>£371.21</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>501703</td> <td>PKF Littlejohn Ltd</td> <td>Audit of 2014-15 Accounts</td> <td>£240.00</td> <td>Inc. £40.00 VAT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>c. To consider approval of the draft budget for 2016/17.</p> <p>The draft budget was approved.</p> <p>d. To set the precept for 2016/17</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to precept for £15,900.</p> <p>e. To confirm the Millennium Green Trust annual return figures</p> <p>The return should be £nil. The trustees were confirmed as Steph Hadlow and Chris Challis. GF agreed to speak to Steph Hadlow to ascertain her understanding of the position relating to the trust.</p>	Cheque	Payee’s Name	Reason for payment	Amount	Notes	501698	ABN AMRO Commercial Finance	Purchase and fitting of new roundabout	£6,600.00	Inc. £1,100 VAT	501699	Countrywide Grounds	November Invoice for grass	£280.00	Inc. £46.67	501700	Mr B Branson	Litter picking November 2015	£100.88		501701	Mr I King	Litter picking November 2015	£83.85		501702	Mrs T Block	Salary for November 2015	£371.21		501703	PKF Littlejohn Ltd	Audit of 2014-15 Accounts	£240.00	Inc. £40.00 VAT	
Cheque	Payee’s Name	Reason for payment	Amount	Notes																																
501698	ABN AMRO Commercial Finance	Purchase and fitting of new roundabout	£6,600.00	Inc. £1,100 VAT																																
501699	Countrywide Grounds	November Invoice for grass	£280.00	Inc. £46.67																																
501700	Mr B Branson	Litter picking November 2015	£100.88																																	
501701	Mr I King	Litter picking November 2015	£83.85																																	
501702	Mrs T Block	Salary for November 2015	£371.21																																	
501703	PKF Littlejohn Ltd	Audit of 2014-15 Accounts	£240.00	Inc. £40.00 VAT																																
<p>To receive an update regarding the replacement roundabout:</p> <p>The roundabout is now in situ. The grant application was completed ready for submission for an amount of £2,000.</p>	TB																																			

<p>To consider the correspondence received regarding the green areas: Correspondence had been received regarding the dog waste at Cherry Glebe and at the Sports Ground, a dog waste bin was suggested for these areas. Geoffrey is to contact the dog warden who will advise as to the positioning of the waste bins, the dog warden will then organise for the bins to be emptied.</p> <p>A complaint had been received regarding the state of the junior Playing Field, Cllr Fletcher is to draft a response.</p>	<p>GF</p> <p>GF</p>
<p>Any Other Business Planning Application for the erection of detached incidental building for the housing of vintage buses for hobby use. It is considered that the Officer has been mis-led and that the company, Marshopper is being run from this site. The Clerk has reported this to the Planning Enforcement team who are investigating the matter.</p> <p>The solar lights on the footpath behind the hedge are not working, the Clerk reported this and will chase again.</p> <p>Cllr Kibble reported that he had attended a meeting of the East Kent Health Trust. The William Harvey cannot cope with the numbers of patients and the buildings are considered too old. The hospitals, doctors and schools are not going to be able to cope with the capacity of growth that Ashford will see in the forthcoming years.</p> <p>The developers of Finberry are to come to the January Parish Council meeting. The issues raised at the meeting of services being affected by growth need to be asked as well as being raised at both the J10A meeting and the 2030 planning meeting.</p> <p>The salt bin that was placed near the equine centre on Church Road, Sevington has been stolen as it was not cemented in and. therefore, needs replacing. The Clerk will report this.</p> <p>T. Denne and Son are thinking of investing in a defibrillator and have suggested it might be of use to the wider village. GF to speak to Andrew Bourne regarding this.</p> <p>Email protocol was discussed. It was agreed that generally Councillors only need to reply to the Clerk rather than reply to all.</p> <p>Responsibilities were agreed: Cllrs Murphy and Turley – Handyman Scheme Cllrs Kibble and Oakley-Hills – KALC Meetings Cllrs Oakley-Hills and Sawdon – Ashford Forum</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>All</p> <p>TB</p> <p>GF</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p>The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 18th January 2016, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 8th January, please.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 PM.</p>	